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Date: May 27, 2004

To: Examiner Brian D. Nash

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From: Thomas R. Marsh, Esq.
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Re: 50012-00027
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/630,059 Entitled "METHOD,
SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR LABELING, FILLING, AND
CAPPING SYRINGES"

Message: Please see attached letter.

Total Number of Pages: 7

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MAY 27 2004

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

BALDWIN et al.

Serial No.: 10/630,059

Filed: July 30,2003

Confirmation No.: 7769

Atty. File No.: 50012-00027

For: "METHOD, SYSTEM AND
APPARATUS FOR LABELING, FILLING,
AND CAPPING SYRINGES"

) Group Art Unit: 3721

) Examiner: Brian D. Nash

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO
RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**I hereby certify that this paper is being
transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent
and Trademark Office on the date shown below.Print or Type Name: Lynn PennywellSignature: [Signature]Date: May 27, 2004Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to a Patent Office communication mailed May 19, 2004, regarding the above-identified application, such communication relating to a Response to Restriction Requirement filed April 19, 2004. Although Applicant does not believe that any fees are due based upon the filing of this Supplemental Response to Restriction Requirement, please charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1419.

Please amend the application as set forth below.

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 5 and 7, cancel Claims 18-30 and add new Claims 34-42 as set forth below.

1. (Previously Amended) A method for filling of a plurality of syringe bodies, wherein for each syringe body the method comprises:

holding the syringe body in at least one holder;

removing a cap from a dispensing end of the syringe body during said holding step;

filling the syringe body at the dispensing end thereof after said removing step and during said holding step; and,

replacing one of the caps removed from one of said plurality of syringe bodies on the dispensing end of the syringe body after said filling step and during said holding step.

2. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein for each syringe body the method further comprises:

placing said cap on said dispensing end of the syringe body prior to said holding step.

3. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 2, wherein for each syringe body the method further comprises:

sterilizing the syringe body after said placing step and prior to said holding step.

4. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 3, wherein said placing and sterilizing steps are completed at a first location and said holding, removing, filling and replacing steps are completed at a second location remote from said first location.

5. (Amended) A method as recited in Claim 4, wherein for each syringe body the method further comprises:

packaging said syringe body in a container at said first location after said placing step and prior to said holding step; and,

unpackaging said syringe body from said container at said second location prior to said holding step.

6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 5, wherein for each syringe body the method further comprises:

sterilizing the syringe body after said packaging step and prior to said unpackaging step.

7. (Amended) A method as recited in Claim 5, further comprising:

interconnecting a flexible belt to said plurality of syringe bodies in a predetermined orientation prior to said packaging step.

8. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the holding, removing, filling and replacing steps are successively repeated in an automated manner for each of said plurality of syringe bodies.

9. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein for each syringe body the removing step includes:

retainably engaging said cap in a retainer; and,

moving at least one of said retainer and said at least one holder in an automated manner to affect relative movement between the cap and the dispensing end of the syringe body; and,

wherein for each syringe body the replacing step comprises:

retainably engaging said one of said caps in a retainer; and

moving said holder along a predetermined path to insert said one of said caps into the syringe body.

10. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in Claim 9, wherein for each syringe body the cap removed in said removing step is the same as the cap replaced in said replacing step.

11. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 9, wherein for each syringe body the filling step comprises:

interconnecting a fluid supply member with the dispensing end of the syringe body in an automated manner; and,

flowing fluid into the syringe body through the interconnected fluid supply member and dispensing end of the syringe body.

12. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein for each syringe body, said removing, filling and replacing steps are completed at a first location of the syringe body.

13. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 12, wherein for each syringe body, said retainer and said fluid supply member are interconnected for tandem movement during said removing, filling and replacing steps.

14. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein for each syringe body the method further comprises:

first locating the syringe body at a first location for completion of said removing step;

second locating the syringe body at a second location for completion of said filling step; and,

returning the syringe body to said first location for completion of said replacing step.

15. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein for each syringe body the method further comprises:

sensing the position of a plunger end thereof to terminate said filling step.

16. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein said flowing step comprises at least one of the following:

injecting said fluid into the syringe body under pressure; and,

drawing said fluid into said syringe body by retraction of a plunger comprising the syringe body.

17. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein for each syringe body the removing filling and replacing steps are completed in an automated manner.

18.-30 (Canceled)

31. (New) A method as recited in Claim 7, further comprising:

severing said flexible belt between each of said plurality of syringe bodies after said unpackaging step.

32. (New) A method as recited in Claim 31, wherein for each syringe body said severing step is completed after said removing, filling and replacing steps.

33. (New) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said one of the caps in the replacing step is the same as said cap in said removing step.

34. (New) A method for filling a plurality of syringe bodies, wherein for each syringe body the method comprises:

sterilizing the syringe body;

holding the sterilized syringe body in at least one holder;

removing a cap from a dispensing end of the sterilized syringe body during said holding step;

filling the sterilized syringe body at the dispensing end thereof after said removing step and during said holding step; and

replacing one of the caps removed from one of said plurality of syringe bodies on the dispensing end of the syringe body after said filling step and during said holding step.

35. (New) A method as recited in Claim 34, wherein for each syringe body the method further comprises:

placing said cap on said dispensing end of the syringe body prior to said holding step.

36. (New) A method as recited in Claim 35, wherein for each syringe body the sterilizing step is completed after said placing step and prior to said holding step.

37. (New) A method as recited in Claim 35, wherein said placing and sterilizing steps are completed at a first location and said holding, removing, filling and replacing steps are completed at a second location remote from said first location.

38. (New) A method as recited in Claim 37, wherein for each syringe body the method further comprises:

packaging said syringe body in a container at said first location after said placing step and prior to said holding step; and,

unpackaging said syringe body from said container at said second location prior to said holding step.

39. (New) A method as recited in Claim 38, A method as recited in Claim 5, further comprising:

interconnecting a flexible belt to said plurality of syringe bodies in a predetermined orientation prior to said packaging step.

40. (New) A method as recited in Claim 39, wherein the holding, removing, filling and replacing steps are successively repeated in an automated manner for each of said plurality of syringe bodies.

41. (New) A method as recited in Claim 39, further comprising:

severing said flexible belt between each of said plurality of syringe bodies after said unpackaging step.

42. (New) A method as recited in Claim 41, wherein for each syringe body said severing step is completed after said removing, filling and replacing steps.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 17, 2004, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement in relation to Claims 1-17 drawn to a process and Claims 18-30 drawn to an apparatus. In response, Applicant has canceled Claims 18-30 and correspondingly elects Claims 1-17 for examination. Applicant further submits that Claims 34-42 should be examined together with Claims 1-17. Finally, and as previously noted, Applicant respectfully points out for the record that independent Claim 18 does not require "a U-shaped and linear motion pattern" as stated in the Office Action of March 17, 2004.

Should any questions arise regarding this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 5/27/04